

TOLD of the VETERANS

"O Beautiful, My Country,"

Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

Oh, beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control,
Thy liberty in law!

Oh, beautiful for glory tale
Of liberating strife,
When valiantly, for man's avail,
Men lavished precious life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And every grain divine!

Oh, beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!
—Katharine Lee Bates in Congregation-
alist.

A Closing Scene of the War.

Telling of his capture by the Confederates during the closing days of the war, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Watrous says:

"That was nearly forty years ago. As I recall men and scenes inside the Confederate lines—my first experience in that direction—I am glad that the capture occurred. But for the short imprisonment I would not have seen a number of men it is a real pleasure to think of as they were then—men in their prime, some young, vigorous, and all great as soldiers and grand as men.

"I had two opportunities to see Gen. Robert E. Lee, the first time the day of the battle and the next day, when himself and staff were hurrying with anxious faces, to Five Forks, where Sheridan's cavalry and the Fifth corps were a menace to the heroic Confederate army. Less than forty-eight hours before I had stood at attention and saluted our old commander, who fought his last battle on Mount McGregor. And now suddenly, upon emerging from a forest, our party of prisoners was face to face with another great general, one of the greatest the world has ever known. Instinctively a number of us came to 'attention' and lifted our hats. Gen. Lee, iron gray, erect, handsome, gave us a quick glance and saluted in return. That painting of Gen. Lee is burned on memory's plates and no other painting of the South's great leader can take its place.

"I saw Gen. Longstreet at the head of his corps hurrying to the aid of Lee. Though I have met him several times, I like best to think of him as he appeared that day, with a long brown beard, a kindly eye and pale face, the successor of Stonewall Jackson, if Jackson had a successor. Then there was that fiery, fearless bundle of nerves and scars, Gen. John B. Gordon, who was on the way to take command of a wing of that magnificent fighting machine, Lee's army of Northern Virginia. He was young then, under 35, tall, straight, nervous, making his eyes do double duty. I am glad to have seen Gen. Gordon then, at a time when he was spilling for a fight; I am glad to have known him since. There is a real ache in my heart as I think of two new made graves in Georgia, in which sleep two great soldiers and good men—Longstreet and Gordon."

The Silk Dress Balloon.

Even as early as 1862 the Union army had been using balloons to examine the positions of the Confederates and even that early the scanty resources of the Confederates made

the use of balloons a luxury that could not be afforded. While gazing enviously upon the handsome balloons of the Federals floating serenely at a distance that their guns could not reach, a Confederate genius suggested that all the silk dresses in the Confederacy be got together and made into balloons. This was done, and soon a great patchwork ship of many and varied hues was ready for use. There was no gas except in Richmond and so the silk dress balloon had to be inflated there, tied to an engine and carried to where it was to be sent up. One day it was on a steamer down the James river when the tide went out and left the vessel and balloon on a sandbar. The Federals gathered it in and with it the last silk dress in the Confederacy. Gen. Longstreet used to say laughingly that this was the meanest trick of the war.—Lee and Longstreet, by Helen D. Longstreet.

Nation's Badge of Honor.

One of the most striking G. A. R. badges is that of the department of Rhode Island. It is made of rolled gold plate and blue enamel, and consists of the state shield suspended by two gold chains from a broad pin bar bearing the inscription "G. A. R., Department R. I." Pendent from the



center of the bar is a miniature shield bearing the number of the post to which the wearer belongs.

Changes in Ritual.

The commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic announces that at the Thirty-eighth National Encampment the Committee on Rules and Regulations and Ritual reported the following changes, which were adopted:

On resolution from the Department of Minnesota—on page 42 of the Service Book, following the recital by the Third Comrade, add:

"The post commander shall then step forward and deposit a small American flag upon the coffin, saying: 'In behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic our late comrade (naming him) offered his services during the War of the Rebellion, I deposit this flag.'"

On resolution from the Department of California and Nevada—Comrades may bequeath their Grand Army of the Republic button to their legal heirs, but said heirs are not entitled to wear either the button or badge.

On resolution from the Department of Illinois—That disbanding posts shall turn over to the Department headquarters the rituals only, all other effects to be deposited with such institution as may be selected by the post and approved by the department commander.

On resolution from the Department of Massachusetts—the National Encampment, through the Council of Administration, shall have prepared and presented to each member of the Army Nurses' Association a special badge, as a mark of our love and admiration for their services in the past.

Lucky is the man who receives a kick from the left hind foot of a rabbit instead of from either hind foot of a mule.—Chicago News.

BOYS AND GIRLS

Urchin and Mother.

Whilst walking down a crowded city street the other day I heard a little urchin to a comrade turn and say:
"Say, Chimmy, lemme tell youse I'd be happy as a clam
If I only wuz de feller dat me mudder t'inks I am."

"She t'inks I am a wonder an' she knows her little lad
Could never mix wit' nuttin' dat wuz ugly, mean or bad.
Oh, lots o' times I sit an' t'ink how nice 'twould be, gee whiz!
If a feller wuz de feller dat his mudder t'inks he is."

My friend, be yours a life of toil or undiluted joy,
You still can learn a lesson from this small, unlettered boy,
Don't aim to be an earthly saint, with eyes fixed on a star,
Just try to be the fellow that your mother thinks you are.
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Buzz and Buzz-Fizz.

In the game of Buzz, have every one sit around in a circle. Have the players begin to count "one," "two," "three," and so on up to a hundred or so, but always substituting "buzz" for the number 7 or any of its multiples—14, 21, etc. The instant any one makes a mistake he must drop out of the game, and the player next to him must begin at "one" again. If any one forgets his number or gives the wrong number after "buzz" he must pay a forfeit. This is a tiptop game, and will keep everybody entertained.

Buzz-Fizz is like the game of "Buzz"—only more difficult. In addition to having to say "buzz" in place of the number 7 or any of its multiples, the players must also say "quack" in place of the number 3 or any number in which it occurs—for instance, 30 is quack-one, 31 is quack-two, etc.

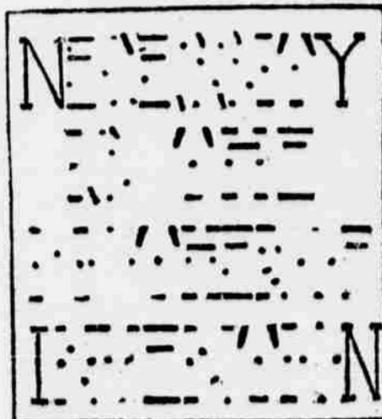
"Fizz" must be used in place of the number 5 or any of its multiples. All the fifties must begin with "fizz."

And "cockadoodledo" must be used in place of the number 11 or any of its multiples.

Counting from 1 up to 15, for example, you see, you must say: One, two, quack, four, fizz, quack, buzz, eight, quack, fizz cockadoodledo, quack, quack, buzz, quack fizz (for 15 equals three times 5).

Observe the same rule for mistakes as in the game of "Buzz" and give a prize to the best player.

Unfinished Letters.



Supply the missing parts of letters as shown in the four completed letters. When finished you will have made a well-known quotation of six words.

The Magical Cups of Tin.

This little trick, performed in a parlor, will make you appear quite a magician. Get beforehand two perfectly plain tin cups, without handles and with the bottom sunk about a quarter of an inch, and straight sides. On the sunk bottom of each put some glue, and over it drop some bird-seed, so that it looks as if the cup were full, whereas it is really standing upside down and the layer of seed is glued to the outside bottom.

When you are ready to perform the trick, have a bag of the same kind of

seed, and, standing off from your audience, hold the cups so that they can see they are empty, but don't allow anyone to approach you.

Now take one cup and dip it into the bag of seed, but instead of filling it, turn it upside down, so that when you take it out the seed glued to the bottom will show, and everyone will think it is full.

Place the apparently full cup of seed under a hat, but in doing so dexterously turn it so that the empty cup is upright and the glued seed at the bottom. Don't let your audience see this turn.

Now take the other cup, which is empty, and let them see you put it under another hat, but also turn this one so that they do not see you do it. This brings the seed to the top and



Tin Cup Trick.

looks as if the cup were full, and when you remove the hat, after pronouncing some magic words, it will look as if the cups had changed places.

Remove the cups before anyone has a chance to examine them.

A Laughing Game.

In comment on the physical benefit that doctors say comes from a good, hearty laugh, is this account of a game that is warranted to set a whole room in an uproar of merriment.

This is one of the jolliest impromptu games that we know of. We mean by impromptu that it requires no preparation whatever, but may be played by a roomful of boys and girls the moment it is suggested. And it is brimful of fun from start to finish.

Any number of players may take part in it. They first select a leader, who should be a bright, alert, quick-witted boy, who is capable of preserving his self-possession while fun and laughter is going on around him.

The players seat themselves in a circle and the leader takes his place in the center. He holds in his hand a white handkerchief, which he has knotted so as to make it partly solid.

When everything is ready the leader tosses the handkerchief up in the air, and then every player must begin laughing. But they must all stop laughing by the time the handkerchief reaches the floor, and if anyone does not stop and the leader catches him either laughing or smiling he imposes a forfeit or a fine.

Or instead of making the detected laughter pay a forfeit he may be required to drop out of the circle. If played in this way the players drop out one after another until only one is left, and that one wins the prize.

The American Eagle.

Our bald eagle, so called because the feathers on the top of his head are white, was called the Washington eagle by Audubon, the great naturalist. Like Washington, he is brave and fearless, and as his name and greatness are known the world over, so can the eagle soar to heights beyond others.

The eagle was adopted as the emblem of the United States in 1785, since when it has been used on the tips of flagpoles, coins, United States seals and on the shield of liberty.